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Letter To The Editor

Editor
TIMES-VIRGINIAN
Appomattox, Virginia

Dear Sir:

Due to the great deal of misinformation that has been disseminated about the Virginia Fibre Corporation, we believe it is important that the truth be made public.

Four years ago, after certain business interests had invited them to Amherst County, Virginia Fibre representatives met with citizens at Clifford Hall and at Wailes Center in Sweetbriar. They expressed their desire to locate at Riverville and asked the public to admit their industry to the community. At Clifford Hall, they announced their intention to erect a paper mill that would use the latest technological advances - a neutral sulfite process - which would produce NO POLLUTION of any kind. During repeated queries by citizens, both publicly and privately, Virginia Fibre representatives declared there would be NO ODOR, NO NOISE and NO WATER POLLUTION - the mill would be so inoffensive that neighboring citizens would not know it was there (except for one tall stack which would be visible to some). Press releases even included the statement that "water would be returned to the James River purer than when taken from the river." Robert Macauley, President of Virginia Fibre, in a letter dated November 10, 1975 stated the representatives' promises were his promises and that he would deemed himself a man of his word.

Shortly after pollution bonds were floated (as best as can be determined), Virginia Fibre decided to change their manufacturing process. This was discovered when the State Air Pollution Control Board, on September 16, 1974, noted that supports for electrostatic precipitators were installed. These installations were not in the original permit. The process Virginia Fibre changed to and continues to use is a "green liquor" sulfide process which is a slight variation of the kraft process (known for many years to be extremely malodorous).

When citizens complained in late July and early August 1975, the company said it was doing "everything it could" to correct the odor which they claimed was caused by (1) improper plant construction, (2) spillage from ruptured pipe and (3) improper flow of electricity. Later, the Sirrene Company was employed to study the problem and recommend corrections. This was reported in the public meeting of November 1975 held at Amherst. Following this meeting the State Air Pollution Control Board issued a consent order which required Virginia Fibre to make certain installations to reduce the odor by June1, 1976. Virginia Fibre technically fulfilled this order and there has been some odor reduction especially in outlying areas. However, when one is in the direct path of the odor today it smells almost as strong as ever. [illegible] emphasis [illegible] asthma patients continue to suffer severely and the lives of others are made miserable by loss of sleep, headaches, sinus attacks and nausea.

During the August 1976 meeting of the State Air Pollution Control Board, Mr. Jim Rushton,(Virginia Fibre's consultant from the Sirrene Company) in respone to questions from the Board, stated that prior to the consent order's requirement ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAD BEEN INSTALLED BY VIRGINIA FIBRE TO CONTROL OR PREVENT ODOR. When asked if installations made were now working properly, he replied "Yes, but they were never designed to take care of the high volume, low concentrate gases". These uncontrolled gases apparently include the mercaptans described in a study by R. W. Moncrieff as "the least acceptable of all odors and ones which would unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property." Mr. Rushton further stated that it would be possible to reduce odors more completely through additional installations.

It was at this August meeting that Mr. Folger Taylor, a member of the State Air Pollution Control Board and an eminent chemist, identified what caused the paint discoloration on the Dula home as being hydrogen sulfide and mercaptans. According to the publication Air Quality Control, published by the National Association of Manufacturers, "hydrogen sulfide and mercaptans, in addition to giving off unpleasant odors, can tarnish silverware and copper bowls, and by darkening the lead in paint can stain the exteriors of houses." This is precisely what has occurred in more than one home in the community.

cont'd on page 14

The Pastor Speaks

But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength..." II Timothy 4:17

When things are going well, it is easy to witness and live for Christ. But the test comes as it did for Paul when the world around us falls, when everyone deserts us as they did Paul. Yet Paul asked that "it not be charged against them." When trouble comes, it makes a kind of fork in the road. One road leads to self-pity while the other leads upward to accepting trouble as part of being human and of casting oneself wholly on the goodness of God. Most people--including Christians--travel the downward path. But the person who can look to God in the time of trouble is the one who can make the greatest witness to the power of God shown in Jesus Christ.

Crisis times comes to everyone. Failing an important examination, facing an illness, a loss of a steady relationship, a death of a friend or a loved one--any one of these may strike without warning. How one reacts to these situations determines which fork of the road he has taken. When he pities himself he has chosen the downward road. But when he can, through the period of crisis say, "The Lord stood by me and gave me strength", he will be giving the most effective witness to the power and love of God.

The key to being able to face crisis times is to live each day in the conciousness of God's power in each of us so we may have strength from God. Then we will be able to say with the Psalmist, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalms 27:1 RSV)

Elon Baptist Church
Douglas E. Hager, Pastor

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The Sunday School Lesson

COMMENTS BY HERBERT C. BRADSHAW

LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 28, 1976

Our Ministry of Reconciliation

Scripture :Romans 1:16;15:7-33

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us unto himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18

Reconciliation is not only a doctrine. It is a life and a ministry. In this series of International Sunday School lessons we have studied the doctrine of reconciliation and the nature and character of the reconciled life. In this lesson we study reconciliation as a ministry.

As has already been noted, reconciliation indicates that a state of harmony between two parties once existed, that it was followed by alienation and that now there has been a restoration of harmony. In interpreting the theological doctrine of reconciliation of God to man, Paul showed that reconciliation is, and must be, initiated by God, rather than man. The individual who has been reconciled to God lives a godly life, putting his commitment to God first and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in order, as Edwin Hatch's moving hymn puts is, 'that I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.'This is the character of the life lived in reconciliation to God.

In giving man the duty to do His work in the world, God has crowned man with unique honor and the glory of responsibility. The assignment to believers is to be ministers of God's reconciling love. True, God has initiated reconciliation to bring man back into harmony withHim and His purpose. But He commits to the reconciled individual the task of making His reconciliation known. In ancient times messengers from kings took the news of royal decrees throughout the kingdom. Today the news media--newspapers, radio, television--carry the news of legislative enactments, executive orders and judicial decisions throughout the land. God calls every believer to be His messenger, His news medium, to take the knowledge of reconciliation to everyone of God's creatures created in His image, the entire human race.

Christ Himself set the example for believers in carrying on a ministry of reconciliation, even as reconciliation was being made through Him. Paul expressed God's initiative in reconciliation and man's responsibility to carry on a ministry of reconciliation when he wrote that 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them (that is, justifying them), and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation' (2 Corinthians 5:19). Consequently he calls believers 'ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.'

Nearly a decade ago, Dr. Robert J. McCracken entitled the next to last sermon he preached as pastor of the Riverside Church in New York 'The Battle for the Mind.' Seeing the contemporary condition as a bitter conflict between Christianity and communism for the mind and dedication fo humanity, he challenged believers to obey to follow in the spirit of Paul to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to where the people are, to the great centers of population including the Communist cities of Moscow and Peking. If Paul were living today, Dr. McCracken declared, he would be doing just that.

Romans 15 amply justifies such a conclusion. Paul was a missionary pioneer, believing his calling to take the gospel where no one else had taken it. To Roman Christians he disclosed his plan and intent to go to Spain -- the province farthest west in the Roman Empire, beyond which lay the unknown reaches of the Atlantic Ocean. First, though, he must go to Jerusalem to take the gift of Greek Christians to needy Jewish Christians. Then he would come by Rome, where a church had already been established, "to be refreshed in your company" during a brief visit. As he had already done in Asia Minor and Greece, Paul planned to continue his ministry of reconciliation to those who did not know God.

Following the example of Jesus, he set a splendid example for believers by taking the message of reconciliation to those who did not even understand their need of reconciliation.

Basic to carrying on the ministry of reconciliation is leading a reconciled life. As the ministry of reconciliation challenged Paul, so it challenges believers today, that God may known and His will done in the world.

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"The South 40" by JAMES A. SMITH EXTENSION AGENT

Fertiliser is a costly portion in crop portion in crop production. There are fertilizer materials going to waste or not being used to the best advantage each year.

In Virginia we produce 2 million tons of manure from livestock annually and 1 million tons from poultry. This important source of plant food should not be considered waste and efforts be made to dispose of it. Rather efforts need to be made in how to better utilize this material. Manure plowed down is of much greater value than spread over the soil surface.

Leaves, straw and lawn clippings should be collected and used as mulch, made into a compost or plowed into the garden soil.

Organic materials breakdown in the soil and add humus and improve the tilth of soil. This means the soil will be easier to work and will increase its water holding capacity.

* * *

Soybeans are grouped to indicate their maturity date. Short season varieties (Group 3) generally have poor seed quality and must be harvested promptly. All soybeans grown in Virginia are referred to as determinate types. This means that when they start blooming, they stop growing. Therefore, never select a short (Group 3) variety for double cropping because they will begin flowering before getting enough height to support good bean yields.

If you suspect a nematode problem the Forrest variety is resistant to rootknot and soybean cyst nematode.

* * *

You can anticipate less stalk-rot in corn when it is planted early.

* * *

Nine years of research with certain micro-nutrients (copper and zinc) at the Orange Station has shown no corn-grain increases even when a high of 25 pounds of copper and 9.9 pounds of zinc are applied per acre.

In only one year has there been a wheat yield increase to copper.

Although zinc deficiency has been identified on certain Virginia soils, it has only been those soils having a high pH and a very high phosphorus availability.

* * *

Sorghum continues to be a viable alternative to corn as a source of silage material. In 1975 at the Orange Station there were five varieties of forage silage producing yields of 20+ tons per acre and five forage varieties with 70+ bushels of grain.

In the grain varieties one variety produced 25 tons per acre and five had grain yields of 70+ bushels per acre.

* * *

Will it pay to consider irrigation of alfalfa? A three-year study on Davidson soil shows 1.77 ton difference due to irrigation. So calculate your irrigation cost and compare it to the added value of hay.

* * *

PRECIPITATION:

Last Week	.03
This Month	.46
This Year	42.33

Hopkins To Lead County Amateur Radio Operators

Mr. Roy D. Hopkins, Sr. Rt. 2, Box 305, Appomattox, Va has been selected to lead an organization of Appomattox County, Va. amateur radio operators prepared to furnish organized emergency communications in time of disasters, it was announced today by Communications Manager George Hart of the American Radio Relay League, U. S. and Canadian association of radio amateurs.

Mr. Hopkins' assignment, which carries the title of Emerency Coordinator of the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps, is to band together members of the amateur radio service in his community to perfect arrangements for emergency radio communications by hams in the event of natural disasters or other emergencies. In addition to use of fixed radio station equipment working from commercial power, amateur stations use self-powered radio transmitting and receiving equipment as needed and can often deploy portable and mobile units to accommodate a particular emergency requirement. Mr. Hopkins as ARRL Emergency Coordinator, will call local meetings of amateurs, establish common operating procedures, and arrange regular drill periods when the hams' personal stations may be mobilized under simulated emergency conditions. The ARRL also includes liaison planning with relief and public welfare agencies, as suggested in working understandings the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Corps has with the Red Cross, Civil Defense, and other agencies. Liaison will be established also with local protective services, such as fire and police departments.

In announcing the appointment, Hart pointed out that radio amateurs have traditionally had the responsibility of being in constant readiness to offer assistance in time of need with ham-acquired skill, emergency-powered transmitters & and a wealth of community spirit. "When sleet storms disrupt telephone and telegraph service, or floods isolate whole communities," the League's Communications Manager said, "it is amateur radio that comes to the rescue with operators and self-powered equipment, often as the sole agency able to transmit messages calling on the outside world for aid for the striken community."

"To be prepared for this function required not only a highly organized program of preparedness locally," Hart continued, "but hams outside the disaster area must be prepared to act as outlets and relay points for emergency traffic. Planning and organization are necessary in either eventuality and that is the job Mr. Hopkins is doing for this area."

ACADEMY STUDENTS PREPARE CHRISTMAS BOX

Students at Robert E. Lee are preparing a Christmas box to send to Nigeria. Since missionary Hazel Moon spoke to the students in Chapel, they have taken a special interest in the children afflicted with leprosy. Each student purchased a book they found interesting. This is the seccnd time R. E. Lee students have prepared books for Miss Moon's ministry. From left to right: Bonnie, Layne, Robin Branch, Mary Beth Everly, P. W. Kitchen, Liz Pierce, Cheryl Bennett, Mary Lee Bryant, Stella Osborne, Sandy Kitchen, Kim Johnson.

Oscar (David Covington) throws water in the face of Felix (David Eye) as the poker gang (Joe Ford, Jerry Womack and Randy Hipps) look on.

ACHS Drama Club To Present "The Odd Couple"

Wouldn't it be absolutely disastrous if you missed seeing the hilarious Broadway comedy, "The Odd Couple", especially when it was right here in Appomattox? Don't let this calamity befall you! Come out and see the Drama Club of Appomattox County High School present this delightful show on December 3 and 4 at 8:00 p.m. in the school auditorium.

"The Odd Couple" by Neil Simon, produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., promises to be one of the greatest efforts put forth by ACHS students.

Tickets are now on sale and may be purchased from the office at the high school, Drama Club members, or from Mrs. Joyce Sweet. This price is: students - advance tickets, $1.00, at the door, $1.50; adult tickets, advance $1.50, and at the door, $2.00.

Be sure to mark December 3 and 4 on your calendar for an action-packed, fun-filled evening of enjoyment and laughter.

Promoted

NOV. 16 - Marine Sergeant Jamie R. Bates, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene P. Doyen of Route 2, Appomattox, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with the 2D Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C.

A 1974 graduate of Appomattox County High School, he joined the Mrine Corps in June, 1974.

A.A. & AL-ANON Meetings

There will be OPEN A.A. and AL-NON meetings at the Drakes Branch Baptist Church, Drakes Branch, November 26, and December 3, 1976 at 8:00 p.m. To learn more about these programs and the help that is available to the alcoholic and their families, you are invited to attend these meetings.

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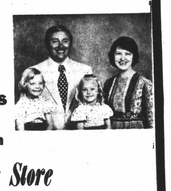

We thought you should know...

that during a recent five-year period the average claim settlement in product liability cases has increased by 300%. The resultant astronomical liability protection costs have put some manufacturing companies out of business and threaten still others.

What's the point? The point is, this is just one of the many circumstances helping to push the cost of insurance beyond the reach of many.

You can help by talking to your neighbors and friends, writing your representatives in government and contacting your insurance commissioner. Or, by talking to us.

Then maybe you won't just blame your insurance company and your agent.

The more people who understand the problem, the better prepared we'll all be to work out the solutions.

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